Investments in Postal Saving Scheme

@2048. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total amount of money invested in the National Savings Certificates and Indira Vikas Patras till January, 1988;

(b) what were the figures of investment in National Savings Certificates and other saving schemes of the Postal Department during the last two years; and

(c) what is the total number of agents employed in the National Savings Schemes during the last three years alongwith the total amount of commission paid to these agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The amount invested in Savings Certifiactes including Indira Vikas Patra during April to January each year is indicated below:—

(In crores of Rupee

1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
2202	2754	3053

(c) The total number of agents and the total amount of commission paid to them during the last three years are as under: —

Year	Number of SAS/MPKBY agents	Commission paid
1984-85	1 23 lakhs	Rs. 50 Crores
1985-86	1.54 lakhs	Rs. 67 Crores
1986-87	1.74 lakhs	Rs. 71 Crores

Maximum balance in the Post Office Saving Bank Accounts

@@2049. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the limit of maximum balance in the post office saving bank account varies from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The limit of maximum balance in the Post Office Savings Bank Account has been raised from Rs 25,000 to Rs. 50,000 in Single Account and Rs. 50,000 to Rs. One lakh in Joint Account with effect from 2nd December, 1987.

Finance Commission Cell

@@@2050. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to constitute a Finance Commission Cell within the Planning Commission;

@Previously Unstarred Question 1123, transferred from the 7th March, 1988.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 1153, transferred from the 7th March, 1988.

@@@Previously Unstarred Question 1588, transferred from the 10th March, 1988.

(b) if so, by when such a Cell is proposed to start functioning; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Finance Commission Division is already functioning in the Ministry of Finance.

2051. [*Transferred to the 18th March, 1988*].

Amendment of Central Sales Tax Act

2052. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken notice of the fact that Kerala State has suffered a loss of rupees five hundred crores during the past decade due to the amendment to the Central Sales Tax Act, 1976 which provides for the exemption of the penultimate purchase or sale in the course of export or import from State taxation;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from Kerala on this account;

(c) whether Government are aware of the assurance made on the floor of Parliament by the late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi that Kerala would be suitably compensated for its loss;

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by the Central Government to implement the above promise; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to amend the Central Sales Tax Act, 1976 in order to undo the harm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Government of India amended the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 on September 9, 1976 providing for exemption of the sale prior to export of goods out of India from Central Sales Tax. Government of Kerala has been representing from time to time that it has suffered a loss of Rs. 500 crores from 1976-77 onwards on this account and seeking compensation from the Central Government.

(c) to (e) Representations made by Government of Kerala have been considered and rejected since Central Govrnment is competent to amend tax laws for which powers have been granted under the Constitution. The resources position of Kerala is being kept in view while computing Central assistance due to the State on different accounts.

किसानों पर कर

2053. श्री मीर्जा इर्शाद बेग : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार किसानों पर अन्य कोई अतिरिक्त कर लगाने के विचार का समर्थन करती है ;

(ख) क्या इस संबंध में कोई अभ्यावेदन/सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं ; यदि हां, तो किनसे ; और

(ग) उसका मुख्य सारांश क्या है और उस पर सरकार ने क्या निर्णय लिया है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राजस्व विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत पांजा) : (क) इस समय केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा कृषि आय पर कोई कर नहीं लगाया जाता है। अतः अन्य कोई अतिरिक्त कर लगाने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है।

(ख) और (ग) विभिन्न संस्थाओं से ऐसे कई सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं जिन में कृषि आय पर कर लगाने का प्रस्ताव किया गया है। फिलहाल, सरकार का कृषि आय पर कोई कर लगाने का विचार नहीं है।